

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

RSC-01 OIC-02 SS-15 OES-03 EB-07 HEW-02 AID-05 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL AMENDING SINGLE CONVENTION ON
NARCOTICS DRUGS

REF: STATE 012353

1. I SAW DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER U WIN TODAY TO URGE EARLY
GUB RATIFICATION OF AMENDING PROTOCOL, AND TOOK OCCASION
TO ASK ALSO THAT GUB WITHDRAW ITS RESERVATION TO 1961
SINGLE CONVENTION ITSELF. HE SAID MFA WOULD RAISE MATTER
WITH HOME MINISTRY, WHICH HAD INHERITED JURISDICTION OVER
SUCH MATTERS IN GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION LAST MARCH, BUT
HE POINTED OUT RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL WOULD REQUIRE
ACTION BY PYITHU HLUTTAW (PARLIAMENT) WHICH WILL NOT RESUME
SESSION UNTIL MARCH. HE SAID MFA WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY
WHEN THE HOME MINISTRY REPLY IS RECEIVED.

2. SO FAR AS THE RESERVATION TO THE CONVENTION ITSELF IS
CONCERNED, U WIN READILY ADMITTED THAT THE GUB'S PASSAGE
OF 1974 NARCOTICS DRUGS ACT SHOULD HAVE NULLIFIED
THE PREMISE OF THAT RESERVATION (WHICH RESERCED FOR
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20 YEARS THE RIGHT TO PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE AND SELL OPIUM

IN THE SHAN STATE). IN REGARD TO THE AMENDING PROTOCOL, HOWEVER, U WIN'S REMARKS SUGGESTED SOME LINGERING SENSITIVITY TO THE IMPLICATIONS OF AMENDED ARTICLE XIV FOR GUB SOVEREIGNTY. HE STRESSED THAT THE GUB IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF DRUG PROBLEM, WHOSE SERIOUSNESS THE GUB FULLY APPRECIATES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE INSURGENT TRAFFICKERS USE PROFITS FROM THE DRUG TRAFFIC TO BUY ARMS WITH WHICH TO FIGHT THE GUB. BURMA WILL THUS CONTINUE TO DO ITS BEST AGAINST THE TRAFFIC, FOR ITS OWN SAKE, HE SAID. BURMA HAD COOPERATED WITH THE UN AND OTHERS (INCLUDING THE US) IN APPROPRIATE WAYS, BUT IT WANTED THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT IN BURMA TO BE A BURMESE EFFORT.

3. I OF COURSE POINTED OUT THAT THE AMENDED PROTOCOL WOULD NOT IMPAIR BURMESE SOVEREIGNTY BUT WAS NECESSARY TO SERVE IMPORTANT PURPOSES, E.G., IMPROVE EXTRADITION POSITION, WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL EFFORT. I ALSO REFERRED TO RECENT STATEMENTS BY SOME US CONGRESSMEN TO ILLUSTRATE THE POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDINGS OR MISREPRESENTATIONS OF THE BURMESE POSITION ON THE PART OF WELL-MEANING BUT FRUSTRATED PERSONS DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM, AND SAID DEPOSIT OF GUB RATIFICATION INSTRUMENT COULD PROVIDE HELPFUL OCCASION TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

4. U WIN, I BELIEVE, UNDERSTANDS AND SYMPATHIZES WITH OUR POSITION. HOWEVER, AS HE INDICATED, THIS IS ANOTHER OF THE AREAS IN WHICH THE VOICE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS NOT THE DECIDING ONE. DEPENDING ON THE RESPONSE FROM THE HOME MINISTRY TO U WIN'S INQUIRY, IT MAY BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO SEEK AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HOME MINISTER DIRECTLY. OSBORN

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